

The Children's Newspaper, Week Ending January 12, 1946

THROUGH OPEN DOORS OF TRAVEL

MR BEVIN, the Foreign Secretary, has declared that he looks forward to the day when he may go to Victoria Station and buy a ticket to anywhere without anyone asking a question about his intentions, with no form to fill in, no visa or voucher to secure, no passport to produce, and no exit certificate to carry. He wants free travel in a free world where frontiers and officials are relics of the past, and men have the right to come and go as they please.

That may be only a dream in this regimented and controlled world where each country so jealously guards its gates; but it is a dream worth dreaming and, indeed, every traveller, penned in at home, has romantic dreams of journeying forth while "the moon is up, the stars are bright, the wind is fresh and free," of venturing out on the high roads of the world through the open doors of travel. We need to open those doors of travel again as soon as possible.

MR BEVIN's vision of the travel barriers broken down is a noble one. At present only those with priorities and permits can travel abroad, and while shortages of facilities last they may be a necessary safeguard against too many people leaving Britain on unnecessary journeys.

But Britain's greatness was not made by her people staying at home and just thinking about adventure. Her captains and rovers, travellers and explorers, went out to see for themselves "beyond the Spanish Main" and came home with fresh enchantments to retail and new conquests to announce. They went forth like the Elizabethan captain in Alfred Noyes's poem, who cries:

*We're sick of all the cringing knees,
The courtly smiles and lies!
God, let Thy singing channel breeze,
Lighten our hearts and eyes!*

To open the travel doors means offering a chance to British youth to see other countries and mix with other peoples. To roam across Europe through the cities of France and Italy used to be part of a liberal education, and as

soon as possible we need to see that this privilege is extended to the many as well as the few. Even a Europe weary and shattered by war will give a welcome to parties of British youth in its cities and towns, re-establishing the old links and forging new ones.

ONLY through the free interchange of the world's peoples can we hope for better understanding among them. Statesmen may meet in conference, but for understanding a country nothing can compare with the friendly exchange of visits between the peoples.

There is room for the imaginative handling of our post-war resources when ships, trains, transport, food, and currency are freed from their present controls. Already the idea of youth ships has been suggested, to carry great companies of the world's youth in explorations of friendship from country to country. Why not youth trains for the long continental journeys across America and Russia, on which companies of the world's youth might travel together in happy comradeship?

THE world needs new odysseys to celebrate and new journeys to start on. The opening of the travel doors should be one of the chief aims of the new world statesmanship, and it should be a central purpose in world planning. Only the opening of the travel doors can finally break down suspicions and destroy fear between the nations of men. The organisation of travel can be a massive contribution towards peace if it is done with skill and imagination; and the first step towards it should be a demand to relax the regulations, take down the barriers, and open the frontiers to all the friendly peoples of the world so that this generation, before it grows old, may know that joy of vagabondage of which John Masefield has written:

*Going through meadow and village, one
knows not whither nor why;
Through the grey, light drift of the dust,
in the keen, cool rush of the air,
Under the flying white clouds, and the
broad, blue lift of the sky.*

THE BODYGUARD'S BODYGUARD An Experiment in Zululand

GOVERNMENT HOUSE at Perth, the capital of Western Australia, now has two bodyguards instead of one.

The first is Constable Gee, who weighs 18 stone; the second is a wily wagtail, who is the bodyguard's bodyguard. Wily wagtails are a species of wren. They are black and white, with a long fan-shaped tail which they keep wagging from side to side. Just now, in the large shady trees which abound in Government House grounds, magpies are nesting, and the male birds are so keen to protect their nests that

they sometimes attack passers-by, flying down low and snapping their beaks. The wagtails play merry games with the magpies, and so annoy them that the magpies usually desist.

Constable Gee has guarded Government House for 12 years, and for the past three years Dickie, as he calls the wagtail, has been his companion. Dickie flies above Constable Gee when he goes about the grounds, and even accompanies him into the city block, flying around his head and shoulders with sharp, bright eyes watching for magpies.

An Old Photograph Comes to Light

THE awakening of the sleeping beauty after one hundred years has found a rival in the remarkable development of part of a paper negative made by the British inventor of photography, W. H. Fox Talbot, of Lacock Abbey, in 1840.

In the very early days of photography Fox Talbot invented a method of "entrapping the image of the camera" by means of paper made sensitive to light with salts of silver, and some of his so-called sun-pictures were

exhibited in 1839 by Michael Faraday at the Royal Institution. One of Talbot's paper negatives, which had only a faded, yellowish-brown image upon it, was developed the other day with a modern, powerful developing solution such as is used for roll-films, and a fully developed image was obtained!

The discovery that these very early pictures can be so restored is making it possible to treat many old photographs of historical and scientific interest.

For years scientists have assured the South African Government that the only way to save the country's cattle from the tsetse fly would be to exterminate the wild game which act as carriers of the disease caused by its bite.

Now Science has fashioned a weapon which may rule out the wholesale slaughter of game. In preliminary experiments carried out at Onderstepoort, which is the veterinary research headquarters of the Union Government, DDT was shown to be extraordinarily potent in its destructive action against the tsetse fly. So a novel attack against the parasite was arranged, on the outcome of which depends the future of the Union's wild life.

So a part of Zululand much ravaged by the tsetse fly was selected and a great rectangular area was sprayed with DDT powder from the air. The first aerial spraying tests proved highly satisfactory, and now additional tests are being made before a national campaign is started to kill the tsetse fly.

EVERY
TUESDAY
3d

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

POSTAGE
Inland 1d
Abroad 4d
No 1399

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE



Now For Some Fun!

This mischievous-looking young lady is ready to enjoy the first snow of the winter in her district and although she's left-handed her aim is doubtless quite accurate.

THE PREMIER AND THE SOLDIER'S DOG

One of our New Zealand readers has sent us this story which shows what ardent dog-lovers are our kinsmen on the other side of the world.

A BRITISH released prisoner-of-war arrived at Auckland in a hospital ship with his dog, Fluff, described as a "sort of a collie." The soldier, Bandsman Plimer of the Royal Scots, had saved Fluff from a Japanese cooking pot when he was only one of a litter of pups. Since then the two had never been separated.

But at Auckland the soldier was to be transferred to hospital ashore, for he had lost both his feet owing to neglect by the Japanese; and Fluff could not be allowed to follow him, for the Dominion's laws against importing dogs, owing to the risk of rabies, are as strict as ours, and, unluckily, there were no quarantine facilities for dogs at Auckland.

Bandsman Plimer begged to be allowed to stay on board with his friend, but that was impossible. He was carried off the ship, and poor bewildered Fluff

was left under his master's empty cot, from where he refused to budge, or to eat and drink.

It now seemed as though Fluff would have to be destroyed, and this was when dog-lovers in Auckland—and afterwards all over New Zealand—who had heard the story, began to take a very lively interest in Fluff and his master.

Mr K. C. Aekins, Chairman of the Auckland SPCA, went so far as to telephone to the department of the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr Fraser, asking whether anything could be done to save Fluff. Mr Fraser replied by giving permission for Fluff to be put ashore at Somes Island, near Wellington, and kept in quarantine there.

From all over New Zealand came offers to pay for Fluff's keep while he was in quarantine, and efforts were made to have Bandsman Plimer moved to Wellington so that he could visit Fluff.

By this time, no doubt, the soldier and his faithful dog are happily reunited.

THE WORLD POWERS AGREE

BY the wide range of the subjects discussed, and even more by the friendly spirit shown on all sides, the Moscow Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the US, Russia, and Britain has dispelled the clouds that seemed to be gathering over the relations between the Great Powers.

An outstanding achievement of the Ministers was their agreement on certain rules of procedure which should prevent the recurrence of the kind of deadlock which marked their previous meeting in London. Indeed, their Deputies on the Council of Foreign Ministers set up at the Potsdam Conference, may now proceed with their important work. The Foreign Ministers, too, have planned to meet again three months hence, in Washington.

Though the long statement of their findings does not cover certain contentious matters, such as Persia, a public assurance has been given that there are no secret agreements. The statement deals fully with such major questions as Atomic Energy, the future of Japan, China, and Korea, the Balkans, and the drawing up of the treaties of peace with Germany's allies.

While the U.S., Russia, and our own country will draft the peace treaties with Rumania, Bulgaria, and Hungary, France will be associated with them for that with Italy, but only Russia and Britain will draft that with Finland. When these drafts are ready they will be submitted to a Conference (to be held not later than May 1, 1946) of all those United Nations which actively waged war against European States; China will be a member. After this Conference the final texts of the treaties will be drawn up, signed by the States specially concerned, and submitted to the other United Nations. As soon as they have been ratified by those States who signed the respective armistice terms these treaties are to come into force.

For the Control of Atomic Energy the three Ministers have agreed to invite France and China, together with Canada, to join with them in asking the General Assembly of the United Nations to set up a Commission. This Commission, they suggest, should be composed of one representative of the States on the Security Council and Canada, should get to work "with the

utmost despatch," and report direct to the Security Council, because that body is, under the Charter, primarily responsible for maintaining world peace.

The agreements relating to the Far East give Russia a greater share in forming future policy than hitherto. This is desirable because, though Russia's energies in the war were mainly concentrated on the west, she has a long frontier with China and an extensive Pacific coast, the most vital part of which faces Japan, so that settled peace in the Far East is vital to her.

Russia, therefore, is to be represented on a new Far Eastern Commission, of which the other members are the U.S., the United Kingdom, China, France, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, the Netherlands, and the Philippine Commonwealth. With its headquarters at Washington this Commission will be concerned with the way in which Japan is to carry out its terms of surrender. In this connection Russia is to be represented at Tokyo on a Four-Power Allied Council for Japan, of which the most important member will be the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, the executive authority, in fact—and he must be an American.

For China the Ministers agreed on the need for a cessation of civil strife and for a unified, democratic, National Government. Both American and Russian forces are to be withdrawn from China.

Korea is to be re-established as an independent State, a joint U.S. and Russian Commission being set up to assist in bringing this into being.

Finally, the difficulties in the way of American and British recognition of the Governments of Bulgaria and Rumania are to be solved by Russian advice to those States to broaden the composition of their Governments.

Such, very briefly, are the results of twelve days' discussion at Moscow, and very encouraging they are as a prelude to the far wider decisions which will have to be made in the near future.

Bretton Woods Comes to Life

WITH the signing at Washington by 28 nations of the Bretton Woods Agreement there has come into being for the first time in human history an organisation for the world-wide regulation of civilised man's financial and commercial affairs. World finance and trade are the very foundations on which the material well-being of civilisation rests, and if finance and trade had fallen into a state of anarchy as a result of the war the outlook before humanity would have been black indeed.

The Bretton Woods proposals were made in 1944 when representatives of the United Nations met at a place called Bretton Woods in the US to discuss what arrangements could be made to help world finance and trade to get running smoothly again after the war.

The agreement provides machinery to regulate inter-

national currency, that is, the value of one country's money in relation to another's. For there can be no steady flow of international trade if, for example, the number of francs exchangeable for a dollar seriously fluctuates from day to day, or even if, as happened in some cases after the First World War, the international value of a national money becomes so uncertain that there is no means at all of changing it into the money of other nations.

The Bretton Woods Agreement provides for an International Bank and an International Trade Organisation. Now that over 20 nations have agreed to join forces in this vital matter, the next step will be to provide a Monetary Fund to promote stable conditions under which the world's many different sorts of money can be exchanged one with another.

London's Road Accidents

SCOTLAND YARD experts have issued figures demonstrating the seriousness of the road problem in Greater London.

Casualties in the Metropolitan area for nine months of 1945 totalled 18,104, as compared with 15,132 in the corresponding period of 1944, and more private motor-cars and motor-cycles were, of course, involved.

Accidents occur mostly at certain hours of the day. On weekdays it is at lunch-time, and between 5 and 6 p.m., but on Saturdays there is another peak period between 3 and 4 p.m. On Sundays lunch-time is again a danger time, with other peak periods at 3-5 p.m., 7-9 p.m., and 10-11 p.m. Accidents to pedestrians, however, occur mostly between 8 and 11 p.m.

NEW YEAR HONOURS

THE first New Year Honours List after the end of the war was the longest ever issued.

Among Service leaders, Field-Marshal Lord Alanbrooke, Sir Harold Alexander, and Sir Bernard Montgomery, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Cunningham of Hyndhope, and Marshal of the R.A.F. Lord Portal of Huntingdon, became Viscounts; and a Viscounty was also awarded to Lord Southwood, Chairman of the Red Cross Penny-a-Week Committee. Numerous awards were made to others in the Services and prominent in Civil Defence, industry, scientific research, and Government Departments.

Our wartime Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, received the Order of Merit, a rare honour which was also awarded to Marshal of the R.A.F. Lord Portal.

SENIOR SCOUTS

WITH the ending of the old year, War Service Scouts—older boys who were engaged in Civil Defence during the war—ceased to function. In future they are to be known as Senior Scouts and will be the vanguard of a new section of the Boy Scouts.

The Association has been experimenting with such a scheme for two years. Recently census figures have shown a great increase in Scouts over 14; and it has therefore been decided by the council of the Boy Scouts' Association to introduce Senior Scouts, for boys of 15 to 18, into the official training scheme.

The Senior Scout programme is designed to provide a tougher and more attractive training.

The First Cinema?

TODAY we accept the cinema as part of our daily life, yet it is only fifty years old.

The first photographic analysis of motion was made by Edward Muybridge in 1872, and was followed up by George Eastman, W. Friese-Greene Augustin Le Prince, and others. But the French claim to have staged the first public show of moving pictures, in December, 1895. This was made possible by an apparatus invented by the brothers Lumière, and took place in Paris. On the spot where this first show was given, a plaque, with the names of those French pioneers, has been unveiled.

WORLD NEWS REEL

THE Transjordan Government has bought for £50,000 all the British Army equipment, works, quays, and jetties at the Red Sea port of Akaba, which is on the site of a port of Solomon's day.

A party of Danish scientists are preparing for an expedition to Greenland, Denmark's only colony, to examine the vast untapped resources of this 736,500 square-miles island, and to carry out experiments there.

A direct radio-telephone between New Zealand and the U.S.A. has been opened. Calls will cost £1 5s a minute, with a 3-minute minimum, the same as calls between New Zealand and Britain.

Palestine has an order from Britain for 1800 tons of citrus fruit juices. To obtain that amount 25,000 tons of fruit are necessary.

Hitler's will and marriage certificate have been found, sewn in the lining of a messenger's coat.

THE Indonesian Peace Preservation Corps is to help in disarming Japanese troops in Java, and in removing internees from areas not under British control.

Polish villagers are to receive a gift of £467,000 worth of clothes and other articles from Britain.

HOME NEWS REEL

POSTMAN D. W. ELLIS of Towyn ended 50 years of service on Christmas Day, having, he calculates, tramped on his rounds over 250,000 miles in one of the wildest mountainous districts of Wales.

Dr Otto Neurath, the sociologist who was engaged for the Bilston Venture recently described in the C.N., died suddenly at the age of 63.

The Board of Trade have released some 11 million yards of surplus cotton material to help meet civilian needs.

A 14-year-old Wolverhampton boy, Alan MacGregor, went down an old 60-foot pit by rope to rescue a dog.

The compulsory registration of 16-year-old boys and girls has ended.

General George L. Carpenter, leader of the Salvation Army, is to retire next June. His successor will be appointed in April.

INSPECTOR WYNN of the R.S.P.C.A., Eastbourne, dangled at the end of a rope over Beachy Head for two hours while rescuing a dog. He was knocked unconscious by the fall of a roof of a cave and became unconscious again when pulled to the cliff top with the dog in his arms.

There were no fatal road accidents in Middlesbrough in the recent month's period of an experimental courtesy campaign for motorists.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

THE Chief Scout has awarded the Medal of Merit for Meritorious Conduct to 23-year-old Assistant Scoutmaster Eric Heap, of the 1st Stockport Troop, who, while living in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp, carried on in the full tradition of the Scout Movement.

Twenty-seven Jewish boys who had been in the Beisen prison camp were recently entertained by the 11th Edgware Scout Troop to lunch, a very active afternoon's fun and games, and an evening at the Yiddish theatre in the East End of London.

In the British zone in Germany the German Red Cross and other German welfare organisations are being revived.

One of the oldest voters in the Russian elections will be Darya Bonya, aged 111. She lived through the siege of Sebastopol in the Crimean War.

Special stamps issued in France show views of ruined St. Malo, Caen, Rouen, and Dunkirk. Proceeds from their sale will go towards rebuilding these towns. Another new stamp bears a portrait of Louis XI, who founded France's postal service about 500 years ago.

Madame Bemmle, the first woman in Soviet Russia to take part in an Arctic expedition, has returned to Leningrad from Nova Zembla.

A PEACE Treaty between Britain and Siam has been signed. During the war the Japanese overran Siam and compelled the government to declare war on Britain.

Holland is re-entering the whaling industry, and the Netherlands Whaling Company has been established at Amsterdam with a capital of £2,400,000. It will operate, at first, in the Antarctic.

To help provide the Viennese with winter fuel British troops have felled 11,000 tons of timber.

Mr William Young of Horley, Surrey, who is 81, has made his 100,000th besom broom. The hand craft of making besoms from birch branches and willow is dying out.

There are now about 3500 animals in the London Zoo. It is hoped to bring the number up to 10,000.

At a show of exotic birds at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, to be held this year, red canaries and humming birds the size of bumble bees will be exhibited.

The free buffet on Preston station has closed down after serving 12 million cups of tea to men and women in the Services.

THE hamlet of Newington, near Doncaster, has introduced street lighting. One lamp is sufficient!

Carnoustie's Christmas Cake, of which we wrote in our December 8 issue, rose to a total of £82 16s. 6d.

A brick house built at Rotherham by 14 boys working in relays has been opened by the Minister of Works.

Not one case of drunkenness was reported during the Christmas season in Leeds (population over 500,000).

A sea-horse, five centimetres long, was found on Folkestone's marine promenade after a recent gale.

In Jamaica it has been found easier for the purposes of Scout administration to divide the island into three Scout "counties." Each has its County Commissioner as in the Mother Country, and they are named Surrey, Middlesex, and Cornwall.

The Chief Scout has sent a Letter of Commendation to Scout Michael Hirst, aged 11, for rescuing a small child who had fallen into a garden well and was in imminent danger of drowning. Scout Hirst is a member of the 26th Bristol Troop.

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THIS KIND WORLD

WHEN Able-Seaman John Snape, of Swansea Street, Preston, was invalided out of the Navy, he invested his gratuity in a business venture of gathering cockles in the Ribble estuary and then selling them locally, travelling miles every morning with his recently-acquired pony and cart.

All went well until the other day, when his pony, alarmed by a movement on the beach near Lytham, ran into the channel. He was unable to reach it, and both pony and cart sank.

News of the loss soon spread. People were touched by the sad story, and many offers of practical help were soon on the way to Mr Snape. The result is that he has been able to start business again on an even bigger scale. And as a happy postscript to this tale of kindness, we add the news that his cart has now been recovered.

GRANTS FOR THE COLONIES

GRANTS approved under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act during the last three months totalled £1,800,000.

Of that total £49,000 goes to Northern Rhodesia for the control of the tsetse fly, and £164,000 for medical developments. Uganda will have £50,000 for the development of airfields and communications. In the West Indies, Jamaica receives £100,000 for research work, particularly in the refrigeration of bananas; and St Vincent £42,000 for the establishment of an agricultural experiment station.

A GREAT AMERICAN

GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON, who died as the result of a motor accident near Mannheim, was a born fighting man and a great soldier.

He will ever be remembered for his dashing exploits in North Africa, Sicily, and France, and Casablanca, Gafsa, Metz, and Bastogne will always be associated with his name.

It was the irony of fate that General Patton, who had dared so much and been near to death so often on the battlefield, should die as the result of a motor accident after his great task had been accomplished.

YOUNG CHESS CHAMPION

JOSE RAUL CAPABLANCA, a native of Cuba, once amazed the world by beating the chess champion of the United States when he was only twenty. He later became world champion.

Now has come the news that Arturo Tomar has won the Spanish autumn chess championship at the age of fourteen. May he follow in Capablanca's footsteps and conquer the world.

New Industries for Kenya

THERE is a good chance of two new industries being set up permanently in Kenya.

One is the dehydration, or drying, of vegetables. The Government put up factories to do this during the war, and it is hoped that these valuable products will be put on a peacetime commercial basis.

The other industry is biscuit-making. A firm in Nairobi has begun in a small way, using materials produced in the Colony. The machinery comes

The Last of the Diamond "Runs"

THERE was an historic event in the South African diamond fields recently—the last occasion on which diggers were allowed to peg their claims by making "a run for it." The occasion was the proclamation of a farm in the district of Lichtenburg as an official diamond diggings area, and some thousands of men took part in the "run."

A new law has been passed which permits only licensed diamond diggers to take part in any pegging of the claims, so that future "runs" will seem tame affairs compared with the

great marathons that opened the Lichtenburg diamond fields many years ago.

Many people recall the exciting scenes of twenty years ago, when great alluvial fields were thrown open to public pegging. Long before the dawn of the appointed day thousands of Europeans drew up along the starting line ready to race for the fields when the proclamation had been read.

The best areas in the fields were, of course, known, and a good runner would be offered as much as £1000 by some ambitious

digger who wanted a particular claim.

After the District Police Commandant had read the Government proclamation opening the new fields, a pistol shot signalled the opening of the marathon. Across the open country the prospective diggers would race to the distant fields, and keen competition would take place for the possession of the most coveted claims. A population of some 100,000 to 150,000 people would then settle on the claims, digging for the precious blue earth.



Up From the Backyard

Blizzards do not bother this test pilot of Williamsville, near Buffalo, U.S.A. He just brushes the snow from his helicopter, parked in his backyard, goes straight up and starts his 12-minute flight to the Bell Aircraft plant where he works, 15 miles away.

'FLU-FIGHTERS

URMSTON is a bright little Lancashire town with bright ideas, and its way of preparing to fight influenza germs, should they turn up in force, is typical of its enterprise.

The town council have sent out appeals to the townsfolk to become 'Flu Guards. They will be trained as home nurses. Members of the local youth service are being asked to act as 'Flu Guard messengers, and the local British Restaurants will lend a hand by providing a meal service for houses where the wives and mothers are ill. Urmston is leaving nothing to chance.

HIGH SCOUT AWARD

THE Medal of Merit of the Boy Scouts' Association has been awarded to Group Scoutmaster George Albert Goodwin of Takapuna, New Zealand, in recognition of his good services to the Scout Movement. The award was made by the Dominion Chief Scout, Sir Cyril Newall, Governor General of the Dominion.

Mr Goodwin has rendered outstanding services for the past 15 years in the Takapuna Scout group, where he was instrumental in forming Scout and Cub groups among the patients of the Willson Home for Crippled Children.

FRANKNESS ABOUT THE FRANC

FRANCE has courageously decided to face facts and to fix the value of the franc at what it is really worth in terms of pounds and dollars.

Hitherto the franc was valued at 200 to the pound. Now it is 480 to the pound, and a little more than 119 to the dollar. There are varying new exchange rates for the French Empire.

Having set her currency at its true value abroad, France can, and no doubt will, proceed to improve that value by higher production for export.

IN THE DARK

WALLABIES or kangaroos are about the last creatures a traveller would expect to meet in the lonely hills above the Goyt reservoir, near the famous Cat and Fiddle Inn. Two friends of the C.N., however, walking up the path from Goyts Bridge to the top of Cheshire's highest hill, Shining Tor, one night recently had the surprise of their lives when suddenly out of the gloom something jumped.

At first they thought it was nothing more than a startled sheep, and their surprise when the "sheep" proved to be a wallaby can be imagined. The animal must have escaped from a private zoo.

German Coal and Reparations

THE great coalfields of the Ruhr have been taken over by the British authorities, and the German colliery owners, many of whom had financial interest in munitions of war, will receive no compensation. Thus has a powerful factor in German war-making been removed.

A reparations conference has completed its work, and an official Act has been drafted. German production will be available for reparations only in

so far as there is an excess from the amount required by Germany to pay for imports.

Under the Potsdam Agreement Russia is entitled, in addition to what she may acquire by way of reparations for herself and Poland from the zone occupied by her troops, to one quarter of what is available for reparations from the western zones of Germany. Apart from Russia, the conference have agreed upon a reparations distribution.

WELCOME INVASION

A COME TO BRITAIN campaign has been planned for 1947 by the Travel Association of Great Britain and Ireland, which it is hoped will earn for this country in one year three or four times the amount of the service of the proposed American loan. This means of income has been described as an "invisible export," and Lord Derby, president of the association, has stated that, for normal years, £100,000,000 should be the target of income from overseas tourists.

A part of the campaign will be to increase membership of the association, which includes municipalities, hotels, caterers, tourist agents, and entertainment concerns. The Government have agreed for the present financial year to contribute £1 for each £1 subscribed by members.

Various plans for publicity abroad are already in hand. Publications in different languages are to be produced, and travel films of Britain are to be sent all over the world.

IDLE MERCHANT SHIPS

WHILE in Britain merchant ships are being built as quickly as possible, the U.S. is placing many on the inactive reserve list. The U.S. Maritime Commission and War Shipping Administration have announced that 274 merchant ships of all types have been taken out of service during the last few months of 1945. They include liberty ships, tankers, cargo vessels, tugs, and concrete vessels.

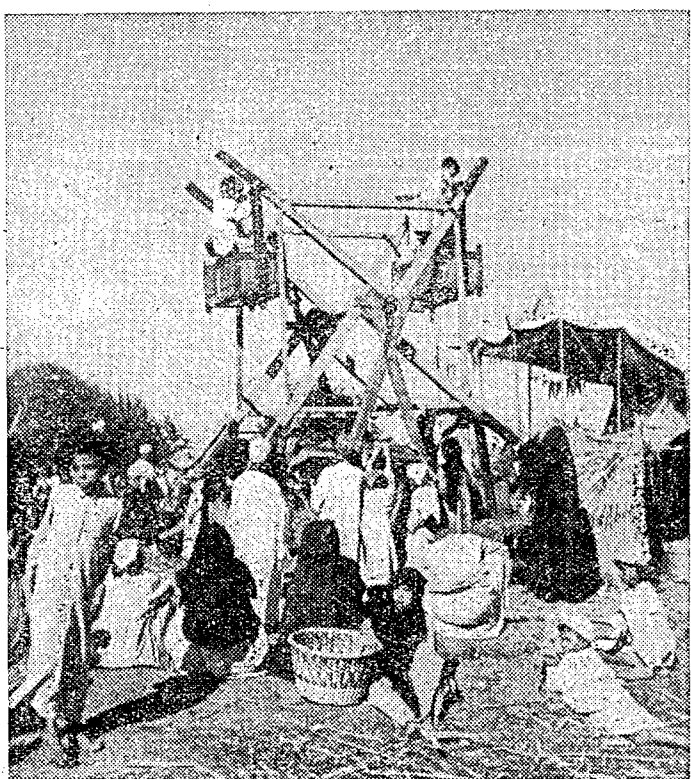
PEARL SOUP

DURING part of the war Arthur Mailey, the well-known Australian cricketer, has been running his Air Force son's general store at Port Hacking, near Sydney.

One particular line he found very hard to sell—canned clamchowder—a kind of soup. One day, however, a customer happening to buy a tin, took it home and found inside—a pearl! The news soon spread, and in a very short time the famous bowler was selling tins of clamchowder faster than he used to knock down wickets, even in his best form.

THE FISH AIR SERVICE

SOME enterprising Australian ex-Servicemen plan to supply Western Australia with fish—delivered by air! They hope to buy a Dakota plane capable of carrying 7000 lbs of fish, with which they will carry on their trade. Where there are no suitable landing-fields fish supplies will be dropped by parachute.



Fun Fair in Egypt

Although more primitive than our merry-go-rounds this one at Tanta is none the less popular with young Egyptians and rarely does it stop creaking during the week of the annual fair called the Moulid, held in honour of an Egyptian saint.

AFTER THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

ON January 7 (the day following Twelfth Day) our ancestors used to celebrate St Distaff's Day in recognition of the end of the twelve days of Christmas jollity. On this day it was the custom for the men to come home early from the fields in order to set light to the women's flax as they sat spinning, while the spinsters retaliated by throwing pails of water over the men.

But on January 8 both men and women got down to work in earnest, as the poet Herrick tells in this poem:

*Partly work and partly play
You must on St Distaff's Day.
From the plough soon free your team;
Then come home and fodder them;
If the maids a-spinning go,
Burn the flax and fire the tow.
Bring in pails of water then,
Let the maids bewash the men.
Give St Distaff all the right:
Then give Christmas sport good-night.
And next morning everyone
To his own vocation.*

To our rustic forefathers, the first Monday after Twelfth Night (which this year also falls on

January 7) was known as Plough Monday. This was once a great day in the farm workers' life, and though the celebrations took various forms in different parts of the country, a common feature everywhere was a brightly decorated plough which was dragged through the village or hamlet by gaily dressed men demanding alms. As we stated last week, a plough is being blessed this year in Chichester Cathedral.

In some areas there was Morris dancing, in others the Mummers acted their traditional play, and sometimes the refusal to give money resulted in the ploughing up of the niggardly person's front garden.

Though the origin of Plough Monday is not known with certainty, it is generally believed that it started with the idea of raising money to maintain candles at the shrines of village saints. But when these candles were banished from our churches at the Reformation, the money was diverted to jollification when the day's excitement was over.

Nowadays, this feast passes unnoticed, except in some country areas where ploughing matches are sometimes held on this day.

Snacks on the Trains

THE Great Western Railway is to introduce an excellent cheap meal service on its trains. A new sort of buffet car will have fixed to its walls hundreds of small compartments containing various kinds of eatables and other needs which can be obtained by putting a shilling or sixpence into the appropriate slot. Thus sandwiches, salads, savouries, cakes, fruit, ice cream, chocolate and confectionery (when these are plentiful again) will be supplied, and also stamps, cigarettes, matches, and medical requirements. Passengers will

eat their snacks at stand-up counters fitted near big observation windows.

It is a splendid idea. Before the war hungry passengers who had brought no food with them had no alternative but to pay for a three or four course meal in the dining-car, or wait until the train stopped long enough at a station to enable them to scramble out and buy something from a refreshment-room.

These automat buffet cars, as they are to be called, will probably be the first of their kind in the world.

Funny?

A QUEER sort of humorous story, the point of which is its sheer absurdity, has recently become popular with many people in the English-speaking world. These tales are sometimes called "shaggy dog stories," because a batch of them were about an imaginary shaggy dog.

A good example of one—not about the dog—was published not long ago in an American magazine. It is by Roald Dahl, a Norwegian educated in England who served in the war with the R.A.F.

The story tells of a man who was much troubled with mice in his house. He bought some mouse-traps, some smoked cheese (obtainable in America), and a lot of glue. He baited his traps and stuck them to the ceiling of the room where the mice came out at night. That night the mice laughed heartily when they saw the traps on the ceiling. Next day he stuck his carpet on the ceiling, put glue on the bottoms of the legs of all the chairs, table, and desk, and stuck them on the ceiling, pointing downwards. He even hung the pictures the wrong way round. When the mice came out the following night they were very puzzled. "Good gracious, there's the floor up there," said one. "We must be standing on the ceiling; I do feel giddy!" Another suggested: "Let's stand on our heads, then we'll be the right way up."

So they all stood on their heads and, as a result, they all died from a rush of blood to the head. Next morning when the man found all the mice dead, he laughed and said: "I knew that smoked cheese would do the trick!"

Some people laugh heartily at that story; others simply can see no point in it. Only time will show whether this type of humour, at times recalling that of Lewis Carroll, has come to stay or whether it is only a passing craze.

HOPE FOR HOPE VALLEY

MANY industrial undertakings in this country have ravaged the beautiful countryside by quarrying, and have left the gaping holes to disfigure the landscape. It is with great pleasure that we have learned of an effort to rectify this great blemish in one particular quarter—Hope Valley, in beautiful Derbyshire.

The Sheffield and Peak District branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England have joined forces with a firm of cement manufacturers in an endeavour to fill up and beautify the land used by the latter for quarrying.

The plan, a long-term one, is being executed by Mr G. A. Jellicoe, a prominent landscape architect, and already, in spite of the shortage of labour, materials, and machinery, accumulated waste material has been dumped in some of the disused quarries, and 3000 hardwood trees have been established. Lakes are to hide the clay pits.

It is to be hoped that this splendid plan will be encouraged and developed all over the country, so that eyesores may be converted into things of beauty.

The EDITOR'S TABLE

MINES ADRIFT

THE autumn and winter gales have whipped up the drifting mines round our island coast, and minesweepers have been busy. Many mines have evaded them, however, and have exploded as they have reached the rocks, the promenades, or other shore barriers. Hastings, Bognor, Bexhill, Folkestone, and St Margaret's Bay are a few of the places which have received these belated and destructive reminders of the days of war now gone.

For some time to come our seas will remain dangerous. That is one of the unavoidable aftermaths of the triumphant battle for freedom.

The Guards' Chapel

ONE morning in 1944, while a service was in progress, the beautiful Guards' Chapel at Wellington Barracks, London, was hit by a flying-bomb. There was considerable loss of life and much destruction.

A Restoration Fund for rebuilding this famous house of God is increasing steadily in size, but in the meantime it has become a place of worship once again. Since Christmas Day services have been held in a large hut built at the east end of the chapel which escaped damage.

Tertullian, a Christian of the second century, wrote: *the more ye mow us down, the more we grow, the seed is the blood of Christians.* That is very true of the Guards' Chapel, which is rising again, though it was battered and broken, and sprinkled with the life-blood of some of its worshippers.

JUST AN IDEA

It is not a question of WHO'S right, but of WHAT'S right.

CARRY ON

The Fitty-Spoken Word

Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.

Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another:

Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away.

A word fitty spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

As an carring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprovor upon an obedient ear.

Proverbs

THE TRULY GREAT

VERILY he is great that in himself is little and meek and setteth at naught all height of honour. Verily he is great that hath great charity.

Thomas à Kempis

THE NOBLEST

ON January 10 the General Assembly of the United Nations hold their first meeting, in London. On that day chosen representatives of the peoples begin their task of shaping a world in which men may dwell together in peace.

No mightier task has ever confronted the leaders of the nations, nor any nobler; and as they confer it seems timely to recall some words uttered by one of the greatest strivers for peace of all time—President Roosevelt. They were among the last he ever spoke:

"The work, my friends, is peace. More than an end of this war, an end to the beginnings of

A Breath of

Is it too much to hope that the breath of humanity will enter into all public administration?

At any rate, Sir Stafford Cripps has tried to breathe this spirit into Whitehall. In a recent speech made to the staff of the Board of Trade, he had this to say: "Let us get away entirely from the chilly formalities of the old-style correspondence, which seems to come from some granite monolith rather

Under the Ec

THERE will be no motor-ing on a peacetime scale for many months. What is wrong with the road?

MANY people are complaining of rheumatism. Seems to be a joint affair.

A JAZZ player should let himself go. His audience will not stop him.

THE flying of this year's Peter Pan is above reproach. Must reach a high level.

PETER PAN WANTS KNC



If snow slipp

King George

To the younger of you I would say a special word. You have grown up in a world at war, in which your fine spirit of service has been devoted to a single purpose—the overthrow and destruction of our enemies. You have known the world only as a world of strife and fear. Bring now all that fine spirit to make it one of joyous adventure. Have faith in life at its best and bring to it your courage, your

MASTER OF

OUT of the night that covers me, Black as the Pit from pole to pole,

I thank whatever gods may be For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance I have not winced nor cried aloud. Under the bludgeonings of chance My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears

TASK OF ALL

all wars. Yes, an end, for ever, to this impractical, unrealistic settlement of the differences between governments by the mass killing of peoples... The only limit to our realisation of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith."

The work, my friends, is peace. We should like to see those words emblazoned on a scroll in the conference chamber so that they might ever be before the eyes of the delegates, inescapable. But their message is not for the leaders of nations alone—it is for the peoples themselves, for each one of us. The work, my friends, is peace.

Humanity

than from another human being. To write to some worried mother: 'My dear, I am directed by the President of the Board of Trade to inform you' is to strike a chill of revulsion into her heart, whereas 'Dear Mrs Jones, I am so sorry to hear of your trouble, etc,' brings a warm feeling of human contact which can stand up against even the most blank refusal."

All public officials, please note!

litop's Table

PUCK IT is said of a certain golfer that he never loses his head. What about his ball?

TO *MANY* young people returning to civil life feel like fish out of water. Yet want to be in the swim.

OW, *DRESSES* of balloon cloth will soon be on sale. Those wearing them hope to go up in their friends' estimation.

SOME people are wrapped up in themselves. Saves coupons.

ge to Youth

hopes, and your sense of humour. For merriment is the birth-right of the young. But we can all keep it in our hearts as life goes on if we hold fast by the spirit that refuses to admit defeat; by the faith that never falters; by the hope that cannot be quenched. Let us have no fear of the future, but think of it as opportunity and adventure.

From the King's Christmas Broadcast, 1945

MY FATE

Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.

W. E. Henley

Good Far Outweighs Evil

THE C.N. is not concerned with reporting crime. The activities of criminals today, given much prominence in the daily newspapers, are disturbing the minds of most people.

But a period of lawlessness and unrest such as we are now passing through is usual following a war; and Time, rather than Scotland Yard, will prove the healer. Moreover, it is refreshing to remember that even in these troublous times there is far, far more good than evil in the world. If proof of this were needed it was given recently.

A particularly mean criminal act was committed during the night before Christmas Eve, when about 200 toys intended for sick children were stolen from the London Hospital. The B.B.C. broadcast the news and the evening papers published the story of the theft. Before 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve the loss was made good by kind-hearted people from near and far who brought new toys to the hospital, and still more continued to come in.

For the few who will stoop so low there are vast multitudes who will reach the heights; although it is usually a tiny minority of whom we hear most.

Snowdrop and Symbol

THE first snowdrops of the year have shown their faces above the wintry clods of earth here and there, while the days are slowly lengthening. Though the hardest part of winter lies ahead, there is joy in the sight of the first snowdrops.

This year, too, there is a special symbolism in their brave white petals. Beauty and courage light the austere, unkindly winter ways, like heralds of a still distant spring. This floral pioneer is an example to men, to strive for beauty and to show courage in a world which has yet to greet the spring of good fortune.

AT NIGHTFALL

INTO the darkness and the hush of night
Slowly the landscape sinks, and fades away,
And with it fade the phantoms of the day,
The ghosts of men and things, that haunt the light.
The crowd, the clamour, the pursuit, the flight,
The unprofitable splendour and display,
The agitations, and the cares that prey
Upon our hearts, all vanish out of sight.
The better life begins; the world no more
Molests us; all its records we erase
From the dull commonplace-book of our lives
That like a palimpsest is written o'er
With trivial incidents of time and place,
And lo! the ideal, hidden beneath, revives.

Longfellow

Streets by Other Names

A LADY visiting England has written to The Times giving a list of names that must come as a surprise to many English people. Recalling the foreign charge that we suffer from poverty of imagination, and that this is shown by the way we apply the same name again and again to streets and other thoroughfares—Gloucester-this, Gloucester-that, and Gloucester-the-other—she points out that we have an unparalleled variety of alternative names for street, such as road, terrace, crescent, avenue, and so forth; she herself names fifty.

Other letters to The Times have added to her schedule until some hundred different ways are shown of describing a thoroughfare. Yet the total is not exhausted, and the C.N. makes its own humble contribution: wynd, for lane, garth for yard or meadow, and "went," perhaps confined to Kent as a form of "way." Near Swanley there is a junction at which meet four roads and a footpath: the local name is Five Wents. In Yorkshire, too, they have a word that needs translating for a visitor. It is "looun," and means lane, the spelling being almost exactly that common to the time of Spenser and of writers of earlier English.

SWIMMING ACROSS MORECAMBE BAY

LONG-DISTANCE swimmers throughout the country will welcome the news that the eleven-mile Morecambe Cross-Bay Swimming Championship, the longest competitive race in this country, is to be revived this year. Suspended in 1940, this swimming championship from Morecambe to Grange-over-Sands had been held annually since its inception in 1907.

Mr Walter Birtle, who up to his death in 1944 had acted as chairman for over 25 years, had made this championship into one which aroused nation-wide interest. The champion in 1940, the last time the race was held, was Allan Gorton of Failandworth, Lancashire, a splendid youth with a great future in the swimming world who, unfortunately, has been killed in action.

Morecambe Corporation have in the past given this event every support; so have the fishermen who act as pilots, and without whose help this swim would be impossible.

Seeing Through Things

X-RAYS have long proved invaluable in revealing defects within the body; now Science has an apparatus for detecting harmful objects outside the body.

This apparatus is known as the Fluoroscope, and by its means weapons concealed by criminals can literally be brought to light.

The Fluoroscope is being used by the U.S. Army authorities to detect any revolvers, guns, or ammunition in the kits of American soldiers entering this country. An operator looks through a screen and can see any metal objects in the Army kit-bags.

SWINEHERD VERSUS SWINE-OWNER

THE British Government have recognised the overthrow of the monarchy in Yugoslavia and the establishment of a federal republic. The youthful King Peter loses his throne, and one feels all the more sorry for him because of the brave stand he took against Hitler during the war.

Yet the history of the royal house in Serbia, which later became Yugoslavia, amounts, in fact, to a fierce fight, lasting over a century, between a rich man who owned pigs, and his descendants, and a poor man who herded his master's pigs, and his descendants.

Serbia, or Servia, as we still called it in 1914, was still a Turkish province in 1804, when Kara George, a prosperous swine-breeder, led the oppressed peasantry into revolt. By 1807 this stout-hearted man had driven out the tyrannical janissaries of the Sultan, captured Belgrade and other fortresses, and looked like freeing Servia.

Within a few years, however, the Turks were in possession again, and Kara George fled to Austria in 1813. Turkish oppression then became worse, and the people rose again in 1815, choosing a new leader, Milosh Obrenovich. He was a simple herdsman, but in a single campaign he got rid of all the Turks except those in the fortresses.

Then, when he had done all the work, Kara George came back from Vienna in 1817 to claim the fruits of it. Obrenovich lost no time, but had his rival assassinated at once, and proclaimed himself the ruler of the country. By 1830 even the Turks had recognised him as "hereditary prince."

But he was a despot, and in 1839 the people forced him to abdicate in favour of his son Milan, who was succeeded by his brother Michael. For three years Michael Obrenovich was Prince of Servia. Then the supporters of Kara George got busy, drove him out, and elected Alexander, son of Kara George, as prince.

That was in 1842. And in 1859 Alexander was in his turn forced

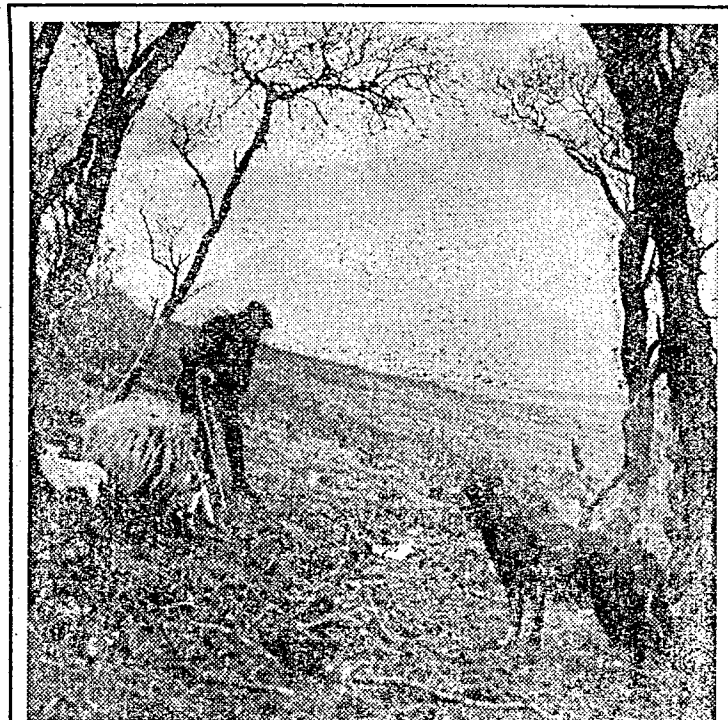
to abdicate, and the old Milosh Obrenovich came back. But he died within two years, his son Michael returned, and ruled well for nine years, until the Kara Georgites assassinated him in 1868. But Milan IV, the next prince, was also an Obrenovich. He ruled until 1889. Then he had to abdicate in favour of his son Alexander, though he had meanwhile, in 1882, been proclaimed King Milan I.

Alexander was only 13 when he came to the throne. In 1900, at the age of 24, he made a marriage which aroused fierce opposition, and three years later a party of army officers broke into the palace, murdered him and his queen and others, and brought Prince Peter Karageorgevitch to the throne as Peter I. He was the grandfather of young King Peter.

Peter I had quite a long and successful reign. He brought his country out of her primitive life into modern activity, and led her heroically against the Germans and Austrians in the First World War, the "excuse" for which was Austria's impossible demands upon Servia. He died peacefully, three years after the end of that war.

His son, Alexander, who succeeded him, strove hard to bring unity and peace to this bigger kingdom of Yugoslavia. But he, alas, was assassinated in France in 1934, but not by agents of the rival family. Nobody quite knows who was responsible; probably the Nazis. Then the boy Peter, at the age of 11, became Peter II, and the rest we know.

And now, 142 years after the first swine-keeper raised the flag of revolt for an independent Servia, the struggle of the two peasant families for the throne has ended at last.



IN SCOTLAND

An old Highland shepherd tends the new-born lambs

HOME OF ARTISTS

FOR over two centuries Hampstead, Happy Hampstead, has been a magnet for the artist. How large and various has been—and still is—the muster of painters there is being proved this month by an exhibition of over 300 of their works.

This has been organised by the Hampstead Artists' Council, which was founded at the beginning of 1944 to strengthen the ties between the artist and the district in which he lives. It will do more, for, open free to the public, this exhibition proclaims the beauty of Hampstead's streets and the natural glory of its spacious heath.

In the reign of Queen Anne Hampstead was a hilltop village one hour by coach from town, but on summer evenings members of the Kit-Kat Club would meet at the Upper Flask Inn there. Sir Godfrey Kneller, the portrait painter, immortalised the club, and it is fitting that exhibit number one should be his study for his portrait of William Congreve, the playwright.

Later in the century the Bull and Bush Tavern in the very heart of the heath country provided what Gainsborough called a "delightful little snugery" for himself, Reynolds, Hogarth, Richard Wilson, and other artists. The nearby scenery provided material for Gainsborough's landscapes, and also for Wilton. These artists, together with George Morland, of Camden Town, and Romney, who made his home near The Grove, in 1796, are represented here.

Pride of place, however, is given to our prince of landscape painters, John Constable, who spent most of his last 20 years at Hampstead, enjoying from his house "a view unsurpassed in Europe." He was laid to rest in Hampstead churchyard in 1837. Manchester has lent this painter's beautiful canvas of the

Heath after an August shower.

In the eighteen-twenties, too, John Linnell lived and painted on Hampstead Heath, being visited by his friends the water-colourists, John Varley and Samuel Palmer, and also by William Blake, whose Ruth Parting From Naomi is exhibited.

It is not surprising that the pre-Raphaelites should have been attracted to this sunny height, and two of Ford Madox Brown's paintings, English Autumn Afternoon—London, as seen from Hampstead, and Work (in which Carlyle and F. D. Maurice survey a busy colourful scene) have been lent by Birmingham. Pictures by his son Oliver, and daughter, Lucy Rossetti, are also on these walls, together with a lovely portrait of Christina, by her brother, Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Among other artist families also represented are the Colliers, the Rivières, and the Carlines.

Among other artists who lived at Hampstead were George du Maurier, of Punch, John Pettie, Seymour Lucas, Kate Greenaway (beloved by children), Sir William Rothenstein, and Sickert; and among those still with us are Charles Ginner, Henry Lamb, L. Campbell Taylor, and Frank Salisbury, who in Secrets shows a mother whispering to her curly haired three-year-old.

Studio House, Rosslyn Hill, where these pictures are on view until January 26, is the headquarters of the Hampstead Artists' Council, to whom the CN wishes all success in its object of making it a centre for a wide appreciation of Art.

A Great British Sailor

BRITAIN and her friends everywhere heard with sorrow recently of the passing of Admiral of the Fleet Lord Keyes, whose name will live in history with that of Drake and the other great sea-fighters of our island.

Lord Keyes' death was due characteristically to active service in the Second World War when he was over 70 years of age. He had been flying with the US Fleet during their Philippines expedition, and as a result of flying high after passing through a poisonous smoke screen, he contracted heart trouble.

Few, if any, of our great soldiers, sailors, and airmen have served with almost equal distinction in both wars, but this Lord Keyes did. His name, however, will be illustrious chiefly for the daring naval attack he organised and led on Zeebrugge and Ostend, two lairs of German U-boats in the First World War. In those days Arthur Mee gave our readers this description of that epic fight:

"One of the greatest chapters of the history of the sea has just been written. It is one of the greatest chapters in the history of human courage, too.

"In a strange little fleet of seventy ships, fitted out as ships were never fitted out before, a great company of British seamen left Dover by night, sailed behind a cloak of invisibility made with smoke as they went, and reached the nests of the German submarines at Ostend and Zeebrugge.

"They boarded German ships and fought hand-to-hand. They sealed up a canal, they blew up a mole, they destroyed ships and guns and buildings; they did it in the teeth of 120 German guns, and they came home again.

"Some of the men came home, it should be said, for we paid the price of this great stroke with about two hundred lives. Never did braver men die, never did men go more gladly on a great adventure, to almost certain death."

Nearly 22 years after that was written Lord Keyes left retirement to fight again for Britain. He was made Director of Combined Operations, and so was in charge of the organisation and training of the new kind of fighting men who won such glory in the Second World War—the Commandos, daring raiders all.

In the same unflinching spirit his eldest son, Lieut-Colonel Geoffrey Keyes, had upheld the glory of the name of Keyes. For in Libya in 1942 he lost his life and won the VC in leading a raid on the headquarters of the German General Rommel, a raid that had in it all the element of extreme daring that made famous for all time his father's Zeebrugge exploit.

Today Britain mourns in Lord Keyes the passing of one who from boyhood devoted his whole life to her service.

THE INTRUDER

THE headmaster of a Wellingborough school was addressing the boys when he was interrupted by grunts from the back of the class. There was a certain tension, and boys at the back grinned. But they were not guilty; the grunting came from a pig that had somehow got into the class-room.



Snow White at the Hospital

These young patients at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton, are enthralled by a performance of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs organised and played by sisters and nurses at the hospital.

THE COMMONWEALTH FAMILY

THE fascinating story has just been published of the work and aims of the Over-Seas League, an organisation founded in 1910 to foster closer relations between the many peoples of the British Commonwealth. It now has 50,000 members, over 400 honorary corresponding secretaries, and 39 branches.

All these people have adopted the Members' Creed which runs: Believing the British Empire to stand for justice, freedom, order, and good government, we pledge ourselves as citizens of the British Commonwealth of Nations to maintain the heritage handed down to us by our forefathers.

The Headquarters are in London, in a large building called Over-Seas House, and here the example is set for the activities of the League's centres everywhere. During the war Over-Seas House, in spite of damage by bombs, has provided an excellently-equipped social centre not only for Commonwealth Service men and women but for those of our Allies as

well, and has thus upheld the League's belief in making no distinction between race, creed, party, class, or colour.

In the war years the restaurants and snack bars at Over-Seas House were always crowded, there were dances five times a week; BBC broadcasts, lectures, talks, discussions took place, and there were reading-rooms where the principal newspapers and periodicals of the Commonwealth were available. The League's own monthly magazine, Overseas, finds its way into more corners of the world than any other periodical in the Commonwealth.

Now the League is looking forward to its great peacetime work of getting the peoples of the Commonwealth to know each other and to work together.

The CN has often written of this vitally important matter of educating our citizens about their unique Commonwealth which, as Lord Elton once wrote, has already established permanent peace among a quarter of mankind.

England's Own Granary

ESSEX wheat-growers' record year of the war was 1943 when the county produced corn enough to make 77 million four-pound loaves of bread. This and other arresting facts about the East Anglian farmers are revealed in the report of the Essex War Agricultural Executive Committee.

The broad undulating plain of Essex, fourteenth in size among English counties but second to none in history and agricultural wealth, has always been famous for growing wheat. Its soil is particularly suitable for cereals and its climate is rather drier than that of counties farther west. But the East Saxons in this war have not been content to produce wheat alone, they have grown enough beet in a year to have furnished sugar for the county's population for a year and four months.

Essex is a low-lying county with many streams and rivers, and formerly many parts were swampy in wet weather. During the war over 70,000 acres of land have been drained by more than 4000 miles of newly-dug

ditches. In the days before the war when we neglected our agriculture much land in Essex was allowed to become waste. Of this derelict land nearly 10,000 acres has been reclaimed and made to blossom with crops.

The gallant Essex farmers continued their vital work in spite of bombs, doodlebugs, and V2s. Like their brother farmers throughout our island, they deserve well of the nation, and it is to be hoped that this splendid agricultural prosperity will not be allowed to fade away in peacetime.

FROM ZOO TO ZOO

THE Philadelphia Zoo has just received nearly 100 animals from the London Zoo. This is the first post-war consignment from the London Zoological Society to its Philadelphia counterpart, made under an exchange agreement formed long ago.

The 63 birds, 19 mammals, and two British snakes included a pair of wallabies, a pair of Egyptian geese, and a pair of Edwards' pheasants from Indo-China.

BEDTIME CORNER

Marjorie's Sacrifice

ON Christmas morning Marjorie had realised the dream of her life. Pinned to her stocking was the lovely doll she had always longed for—it could actually open and close its eyes—and from the first moment she saw it she could not bear to be parted from it.

Soon afterwards, Marjorie went with Mummie to a Christmas Party at the Children's Hospital, and, of course, she took her dolly, too.

Every child wanted to nurse it, and one little girl called Sally, who was lying on her back and whose face was pale and worn with pain, looked at it so longingly that her eyes filled with tears.

Marjorie hesitated just a moment and then put the doll in the child's arms. Sally's sad face lit up with joy, and for a minute all traces of her suffering really disappeared.

Mummie whispered in Marjorie's ear, "Will you let her have it?" A lump came into Marjorie's throat, but in a little while she managed to answer bravely, "Yes, Mummie," and to come quietly away.

That night when Mummie was putting her to bed, Marjorie said, "I'm glad I made that little girl so happy. I do hope it will help her to get better." And when Mummie told her that it would, she went contentedly to sleep.

Sally was soon so much better that the hospital doctor was delighted, and when he heard that Marjorie's kindness was the reason for this, he invited her to spend the day at his house and go tobogganing on the heath with his two little boys.

So here you see the three of them setting off happily for their first run.



Nationalising Our Coal Mines

THE Government have recently introduced their Bill for nationalising Britain's coal mines—that is, taking them over from private owners and running them as a State concern.

In the old days when somebody discovered coal beneath his land he dug it up and sold it, regarding what lay under his soil as his property. Then commercial companies were formed of people who invested their money in buying land and sinking deep mines, paying large numbers of miners to get huge quantities of coal which the companies, after paying a percentage, called a royalty, to the land owner, sold for a profit; and so a great industry grew up on which the success of many of our other industries depends.

The actual coal no longer belongs to the owner of the land under which it lies, for the State has already bought up the royalties formerly paid to them by the colliery-owners.

For some years there have been people who have further argued that this vital coalmining industry cannot be left to private individuals to run, and that it should become a State service. In their Bill the Government propose to buy the mines from their present owners at an agreed price and to put the industry under the control of a National Coal Board consisting of nine members under a Chairman. These men will be chosen for their experience in industrial, commercial, or financial matters and their knowledge of applied science, or of administration, or of the organisation of workers. The Board will be under the authority of the Minister of Fuel, and its job will be to organise the industry so that plenty of coal is produced cheaply for our

own industrial use, for sale abroad, and for household use at home. Two other bodies are also to be formed to advise the Minister of Fuel, a Council of Representatives of industries which use coal, and a Council representing domestic coal users.

To decide on the fair sum to be paid as compensation to the present owners of the mines is no easy task. It will be undertaken by a Tribunal consisting of two judges and an accountant, and it is expected their work will take two years. The owners will not be given lump sums in cash but in most cases will be given Government stock on which a fixed interest will be paid to them each year; further, they may not sell their stock.

To enable the Board to undertake improvements in working the industry which are claimed to be necessary, the Bill proposes that the State should lend it £150,000,000 in the first five years.

One of the chief claims made by those who support the Bill is that under public ownership many things can be done for the general welfare of the miners that prove difficult under private ownership. It is also held that in working for the State, with its final responsibility for his wages and welfare, the miner will have every incentive to increase output.

The future of the coalmining industry is so vital to Britain that the thorough examination of this Bill by Parliament will be one of the most important of its tasks in modern times.

LOOKING AFTER THE UNDER-FIVES

LOCAL authorities are to submit to the Government their schemes for adapting to peacetime conditions the services for the daytime care of children under five which were so indispensable during the war.

In a recent circular on the subject, it is pointed out that for some time to come women workers will continue in industries which are essential to peace production, that housing and shopping difficulties will not end for some time, and that nursery schools and classes can never wholly meet the difficulty because they do not admit very young children and are open only during schooltime.

The important point is made, too, that mothers should have reasonable opportunity of rest and relaxation apart from their homes and children.

The Ministers of Health and Education have suggested to local authorities a combination of the following methods—nursery schools, day nurseries, and schemes of daily guardians; use of maternity and child welfare centres on two or three afternoons a week; and the organising of volunteers to "sit in" at the homes of children while the parents go out together.

The Ministers have also decided that mothers of children under two should be discouraged from going out to work.

A French Engineering Triumph

THE inauguration of the new dam at L'Aigle on the River Dordogne in France is a fine monument to French spirit and endurance. For it was built under most difficult circumstances. Work on it had just started when the war broke out. In spite of the heavy burdens which the occupying Germans laid on France, the gallant engineers struggled on with building their dam.

They had to contend, too, with the moods of the River Dordogne, which is liable to burst into sudden and violent floods, and always runs swiftly. A new village was built to accommodate the workmen with its own church, school, and theatre.

The new L'Aigle dam serves a hydraulic power station which has an annual production capacity of 400 million kilowatt-hours.

NEW CARDINALS

IN the ordinary way the Sacred College of the Roman Catholic community, which elects the Pope, consists of 70 cardinals, but deaths during the war reduced this number of wearers of the famous red hat to 38, of whom 24 were Italians and 14 were foreigners.

The Pope has decided to fill the vacancies, and in a proclamation he has revealed that the new appointments will change the ratio to 28 Italians and 42 foreigners. New cardinals have been appointed to Great Britain, Canada, Australia, the United States, France, Germany, Spain, Brazil, Poland, Holland, Hungary, Portugal, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Cuba, China, and Armenia.

Great Britain's new cardinal is Dr Bernard Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, who is only 46.

The Navy's Last Prize Money

THE sharing out, which is to take place soon, among officers and men of the Royal Navy and R.A.F. of something like £20,000,000 as "prize money" will bring to an end—so far as Britain is concerned—an ancient custom which goes back to the old buccaneering days.

The £20,000,000—or whatever the exact sum turns out to be—will be the proceeds of the sale of enemy merchant ships and their cargoes captured during the war by our sailors with the aid of the vigilant eyes of the airmen.

Since the Middle Ages it has been the practice to award to sailors who have taken an enemy vessel in time of war some part of its value as prize money. Sailors were obliged—under the penalty of being condemned as pirates—to bring their prize back intact to England, and there an Admiralty, or Prize, Court decided in what proportions the money obtained from it should be shared out among its captors.

No doubt the idea of establishing prize money in medieval times was to prevent piracy, to enable the King to gain a share of his sailors' booty, and to induce men to risk their lives as sailors in the tiny sailing ships of those days. The first recorded instance of a Prize Court acting in England is in 1357.

So profitable became this business of seizing the enemy's merchant vessels in time of war that private individuals often sought permission of the Government to provide, fit out, man, and sail vessels at their own expense for the purpose of seeking "prizes." These adventurers were called privateers but were often nothing but glorified pirates.

Our ancestors, however, were by no means the only sailors to benefit by privateering, for between 1793 and 1814 French privateers or corsairs captured no fewer than 10,871 English ships worth, with their cargoes, over £100,000,000.

Our own Francis Drake was not indifferent to prize money, and when he returned from his voyage round the world he had in the hold of his gallant, battered little ship two million golden ducats' worth of jewels, silver, and gold, taken from the Spaniards—a dazzling fortune in those days.

In the 18th century, when England was again at war with Spain, a British admiral captured a Spanish ship worth £519,705 of which his share was £64,963. His lieutenants who had taken part in the exploit received £13,000 each, while even the seamen and marines were each given £435—enough in those days

to set up a man comfortably for life in a shop. No wonder adventurous spirits were ready to brave storms, cannon balls, and cruel discipline in a creaking wooden ship in the hope of winning a fortune!

When the First World War began the old method of awarding prize money to the actual crews who had captured a vessel was seen to be unfair because in modern war many ships of the Navy are engaged on operations far away from where they would be likely to encounter an enemy merchant ship. So Mr Winston Churchill—who was First Lord of the Admiralty in 1914—instituted the system by which prize money is distributed according to rank among all officers and men of the Navy who took part in operations.

The same fair principle is to be observed today, but it is the last time that prize money will be given. For it is our ardent hope and prayer that if our Navy is ever again engaged in warlike activities it will be in the service of the United Nations Organisation, in which case the disposal of captured enemy property will be a matter to be dealt with by a World Court.

ROUND THE WORLD WITH BSA

No. 18



Kenya Colony is, of course, famous for its big game; in fact, once you are away from the haunts of man, you are liable to meet a

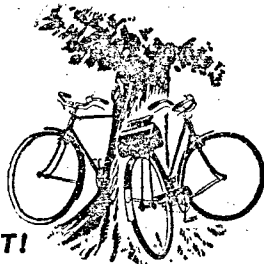
lion at any moment—especially at night.

A man travelling at night by wagon had one of his leading oxen killed by a lion. He shot it by the dim light of a hurricane lamp and was walking carefully towards the carcass when he heard another lion about to charge—and then another. The wagon was evidently surrounded by lions attracted by the smell of blood—and his wife and child were in the wagon. Just then a motorist arrived and, driving to within a few yards of where the ox was being devoured, turned on his headlights. Twenty lions were tearing the carcass to pieces. They all bolted, but nine of them were shot. So, if you ever go for a night ride in Kenya on your B.S.A. Bicycle see that you have a good lamp in working order! Of course B.S.A. Bicycles are not easy to get in Kenya just now—nor in Britain. But soon there will be one for everybody everywhere. So keep in touch with your B.S.A. dealer—he can help you.

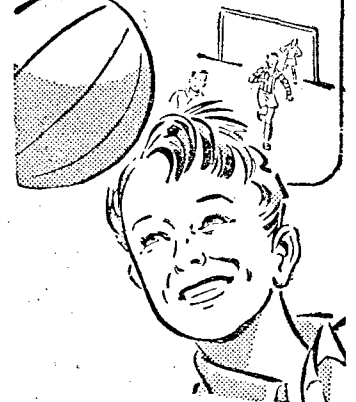
BSA

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HALIBORANGE is an invaluable Tonic for children and adults combining the three essential Vitamins A, C, and D.



He keeps fighting fit on daily HALIBORANGE

Youngsters need vital vitamins to keep them active and healthy. Give them daily Haliborange and take it yourself. This fine vitamin tonic promotes growth and builds up resistance to winter ailments.

Finest halibut liver oil deliciously flavoured with juice of fresh ripe oranges gives Haliborange the vital vitamins A and D as well as vitamin C (the all-important 'fruit factor')

Each teaspoonful of Haliborange contains 1950 units of Vitamin A, 280 units of Vitamin D and 7 m.g. of Ascorbic Acid (Vitamin C).

From CHEMISTS ONLY 2/6 a bottle

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HALIBORANGE

the nicest way of taking
HALIBUT LIVER OIL
H.30

Jacko the Champion Ski-er



JACKO boasted of what a good ski-er he was and Chimp challenged him to a race. As they raced down the hill Jacko was leading until he tried to turn sharply round a big snowdrift. But he wasn't sharp enough and dived headlong into it, while Chimp flashed by and won. Jacko was none the worse, and Bouncer thought it all such grand fun he wished there could be snow all the year round.

NOT TO BE TAKEN

"GUARD," said the fussy old lady, putting her head out of the window, "is this my station?"

"No, madam," was the solemn reply, "it belongs to the railway company."

Tongue Twister

Is the tireless hireless wireless man fireless, the hireless fireless wireless man tireless, or the fireless tireless wireless man hireless?

Money Manoeuvre

ASK a friend to arrange five coins of the same kind, so that they are all an equal distance apart.

He will probably struggle with a circle, or perhaps a square, and in the end it will be up to you to show him how it is done. You place one coin flat on the table; two more flat on top of this coin with their edges meeting in the centre of it; and the last two balanced pyramid-fashion against each other, with their lower edges touching the three flat coins.

Barry has boundless energy

He's a lively little fellow—brimming over with fun. It would be difficult to find a more sturdy, robust boy at his age.

Mother is proud of him and has always kept a watchful eye on his health. She well knows that when needed a dose of 'California Syrup of Figs' will soon correct stomach upsets and regulate the system.

It is the natural treatment for children—the laxative they like. 'California Syrup of Figs' keeps them regular, well and happy.



"California Syrup of Figs"

Bermaline

"The Bread we all enjoy"

Baked by good Bakers everywhere

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The BRAN TUB

Wise Ways

YOU will never be sorry for:
Doing good to all.
Thinking before speaking.
Being patient with everybody.
Holding an angry tongue.
Asking pardon for all wrongs.
Hearing before judging.
Speaking ill of none.
Disbelieving ill reports.
Being kind to the unhappy.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Hunting Owl. "Whoooo!" The drawn-out call of an Owl broke the silence of the night.

Don shivered. "What an eerie cry they make," he remarked to Farmer Gray.

"Yes," agreed the farmer, "small wonder that it terrorises hedgerow folk, and sometimes proves fatal to them."

"Owls hunt mostly by sound. Over their ears is a small flap of skin which acts as a trumpet or sound detector. The unearthly screech they emit often startles some unfortunate creature into sudden movement, thus betraying its presence to the hunter, who instantly swoops down."

Other Worlds

IN the morning Jupiter is in the south-west. In the evening, Mars and Saturn are in the south-east, and Uranus is in the south.

The picture shows the moon as it may be seen at seven p.m. on Friday, January 11.

Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, January 9, to Tuesday, January 15.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Story of Mice and Magic. 5.15 The Swineherd—a fairy tale by Hans Andersen. 5.40 That Reminds Me. 5.50 Prayers. North, 5.0 Wandering with Nomad; followed by What's Happening in the North.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Scottish Songs; followed by Redgauntlet (Part 6).

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Gay Dolphin Adventure (Part 1). 5.40 Floaters, Flappers, and High Flyers. North, 5.40 Listeners' Forum.

SATURDAY, 5.0 How Matilda and Bill Spent Christmas; followed by Dobson and Young.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Music and a Story; followed by The Duchess of Burrow Braes; and music by Bach, Handel, and Scarlatti. 5.50, Prayers. North, 5.0 The Legend of Roland; and a short musical item.

MONDAY, 5.0 Said the Cat to the Dog (No 1); followed by Some of Schubert's Songs. 5.40 Film Talk. North, 5.0 The Week's Programmes; followed by A Nursery Sing-Song; A Topical Talk; and Charles Groves talking about Wednesday's Children's Concert. West, 5.0 Things to Make and Do—Indoor Activities. 5.5 Young Artists. 5.45 Let's Keep Fish (No 1).

TUESDAY, 5.0 A Bogle Comes to Town. 5.35 Rugby Football—F. N. S. Creek, the Sports Coach.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Salute to Adventurers (Part 1). Welsh, 5.0 A new serial in Welsh; followed by songs.

HELPFUL

"WAITER," complained the customer, "this steak is like leather and the knife is blunt." "Well, sir, I suggest you try stropping the knife on the meat."

For an Idle Five Minutes

How many names are there?

SIDANELLENANN.
It is just a combination of the names Sid, Ida, Dan, Nell, Ellen, Len, Lena, Ena, Nan, and Ann, all with their letters in the right order.

Can you form another?

BROTHERS' AND SISTERS

At the next party, when you may be meeting strangers, say that you could tell any of them how many brothers and sisters they have. When one accepts the challenge say that, of course, it needs a little thought.

Ask him to be "quite silent" and only to think of the number of brothers he has. Then double the number, add three, and after that multiply by five. Then he is to add the number of sisters and finally give you the total. Here is an example—let us suppose that your "victim" has five brothers and four sisters. Double the number of brothers would be 10; add three, which makes 13;

The Talkative Lass

THERE was a young lady called May

Who had such a great deal to say,

That she murmured and muttered

And uttered and stuttered
All the twenty-four hours of each day.

The Children's Newspaper, January 12, 1946

Cold Weather Riddles

WHEN it is freezing, what animal would you like to be? Otter (hotter).

What river is always frozen? Isis (ice is).

Which is swifter, heat or cold? Heat; because anyone can catch cold.

SARCASTIC

STRUGGLING journalist: I'm writing a poem and can't find a suitable rhyme for civil.

Seasoned reporter: Try drive!

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Late For the Party
To walk all the way would have taken 5 hours or 3½ hours too much. But 35 minutes is ¾ of 3½ hours, so the boy walked ¾ of the distance, or 2½ miles.

Potted Sentence

Be not cross either before tea or after tea.

SHE'S PROUD OF HIS

magnesia smile...



He's got that sparkling smile that mother loves to see! She makes sure that he keeps his teeth clean, healthy and free from discoloration by regular use of Phillips' Dental Magnesia, the one toothpaste containing 'Milk of Magnesia'*, which corrects mouth acid, so often the cause of dental trouble.

Children use Phillips' Dental Magnesia gladly because it leaves the mouth feeling clean, and they love its flavour! Sold everywhere 1/1d. and 1/10½d.

Phillips' Dental Magnesia

* 'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of Magnesia.